Using Country Specific Data on Lead in Paint and Painted Surfaces to Support New Policy

March 19, 2019
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Current Regulatory Status – Lead in Paint in Israel

- Lead is restricted in paint used on toys and furniture for infants

- Mandatory standard 1343 requires **labelling** of paints with lead content above 0.15% (1500 ppm)

- Spray paints exempt from labelling requirement

- Many residential paints comply with voluntary requirements of “Green Label” (0.01% maximum content for all heavy metals)
Driving Factors - Action on Lead Paint

- Israel Ministry of Health joined the Global Alliance in 2016

- Ministries of Health and Economics elected to conduct **screening-level** tests of lead in paint and painted surfaces

- Part of broader approach at Ministry of Health in recent years to reduce potential sources of exposure to lead in consumer products and drinking water
Collecting Data on Lead in Painted Surfaces

- We found lead levels exceeding 90 ppm in 22 / 25 painted surfaces in playgrounds.
- We suspected that industrial paints were being used to paint these surfaces.

Study was funded by the Environment and Health Fund in Jerusalem.
Collecting Data on Lead in Paints

- We sampled 8 solvent-based paints: none had lead levels above 90 ppm

- We sampled 6 spray paints (red, yellow, orange, green): 3 out of 6 had lead levels above 90 ppm, maximum level was 1200 ppm

- Ministry of Economy tested paint on the market in 2018: 1 (out of 3 tested) had 2.5% lead by weight, product is marketed for outdoor and indoor use

Study was funded by the Environment and Health Fund in Jerusalem
Process that Resulted in New Standard that Limits Lead in all Paint

- Ministry of Health initiated meetings with paint manufacturers in Israel to present results.

- In June 2018, the US Embassy in Tel Aviv organized a Roundtable Discussion on Lead in Paint including a presentation from Dr. Henry Falk and a video on the Global Alliance.

- Following that discussion, the technical committee at the Standards Institution voted unanimously to restrict lead concentration IN ALL PAINTS including industrial and spray paints.
New Standard in Israel on Paint

• Standard 1343 includes general requirements for paints and varnishes (no exemptions for spray paints or industrial paints)

• Lead content has to be below 90 ppm, using testing procedure ASTM F2853-10 or CPSC-CH-E1003-09

• Between May 2019 – January 2021 – both the old and the new standards are in force; beginning January 2021 only the new standard is in force
Contributors to Success in Approving New Standard

• Framing local effort as part of broad international effort (Global Alliance, US Embassy in Tel Aviv involvement)

• **Data** indicating that industrial paints containing lead are being used in areas with potential exposure for children

• Open **dialogue** with representatives from industry and importers

• Regulatory **flexibility** – long phase out period

• Press coverage

• **Support** from local NGOs, academics, and physicians
Acknowledgements

• Chuck Ashley from the US Embassy in Tel Aviv for organizing the Roundtable Discussion on Lead in Paint

• Angela Bandemehr, Evonne Marzouk, and Ellie Mccann from the EPA for support in developing the new standard

• Joanna Tempowski from the World Health Organization for helpful information regarding policies to eliminate lead in paint

• Jeiel Guarino at IPEN for advice on strategy for testing lead paints

• Colleagues at the Israel Ministry of Health, Standards Institution and University of Haifa for collaboration on the pilot study

• Environment and Health Fund for funding the pilot study on lead in paints and painted surfaces